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THE CHRISTIAN ENTERPRISE IN CHINA

This is the title of a China Study Project which has been initiated by the International Missionary Council, and planned by its Research Secretary, the Rev. Erik Nielsen. British and European study will be headed by the Rev. Frank Short, Secretary of the East Asia Committee of the Council of British Missionary Societies. In America the study will be headed by a committee of three, composed of the Rev. Wallace Merwin, our Executive Secretary, Dr. J. W. Decker, of the International Missionary Council, and Dr. M. Searle Bates, Professor of Missions at Union Theological Seminary. The first exchange of papers in the study is expected to take place in June.

Participants in the study will be divided into five groups, who will study respectively the following subjects:

I. The Christian Message and the Chinese Response To It
II. Christianity in its Political Setting and Relationships
III. Chinese Society and Culture, as They Affected Mission and Church
IV. Policies and Methods of the Missions and Churches
V. The Christian Community and the Communist Situation

It is expected that the results of the study will be embodied in at least one general book, as well as in a number of mimeographed papers and printed articles. It is felt that now is a good time for this study, as "the initial period of shock is now past", and it should now be possible to draw out the lessons of the China experience for the guidance of missions and younger churches in other countries.

"DEMOCRACY" IN CHINA

Lord Michael Lindsay of Australia wrote on the above subject in The News, of Adelaide, reporting his impressions when he accompanied the Labour delegation of England to China as their interpreter. The articles were reprinted in the Manchester Guardian Weekly, and it is from that source that we are drawing. His observations are of special interest as he had previously lived in China from 1938 to 1945, and thus had a basis for objective judgment.

He concludes that there has been a certain amount of material improvement in living conditions, and attributes this to the idealism and benevolence of the present Communist rulers. But he is concerned over the fact that they have built up a ruthless totalitarianism which in the hands of a less disciplined generation can become a cruel tyranny. Lenin was followed by Stalin. By whom will Mao be followed? "Unless there is some development towards democratic institutions which allow the Chinese people to control their rulers it is doubtful whether the ruling oligarchy will remain benevolent." Material improvement is no substitute for democratic liberty.

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REPORT FROM HUNAN

From several people who arrived in Hong Kong from Hunan Province last October we have obtained the following information: Changsha is a dead city. There were not more than a dozen cars and a few old trucks on the street. The people have not enough to eat. In the cities it is not so bad, as they receive a rice ration of a catty a day, but in the country the ration is only four ounces a day, evidently because the government thought the country people would be able to find other food. Many middle school students have been sent home, apparently because government funds were insufficient to carry them. Preachers are having to do some other work in order to get a living. One raises rabbits, another has a small shop.

Yuanling is likewise a dead city, so much so that there has been no need to requisition the missionary residences for any government use, so they are just sealed up, with the possible exception of Mr. Snyder's house, in which lights have occasionally been seen, indicating that it is being used for something. The Eastview School there has been incorporated into the government school next door, and the dividing walls between have been torn down.

Church services continue regularly in both these cities, though with reduced attendance. One Catholic Church is spoken of which used to have an attendance of from four to five hundred, and now has only forty or fifty.

There does not seem to be as much propaganda as there was some years ago. Fewer parades are held, and not so much is being made of flag raisings. The propaganda is also being received with more suspicion. The government gave a great ovation for a few trumped up Korean veterans, but the latter were so poorly trained that the people suspected they had never been farther away than the Changsha Political School.

A Catholic hospital is now a medical school in which 400 Miao boys and girls are being given a two year course preparing them to be doctors in Miao villages. The Abounding Grace Hospital is now a T.B. sanitarium.

CHINA'S CENSUS

An official communique on November 1, 1954 gave the results of the census which the Communist government had been conducting. The figures are as follows:

Municipalities:		Kiangsu	41,252,192
Peking	2,768,149	Anhwei	30,343,637
Tientsin	2,693,931	Chekiang	22,865,747
Shanghai	6,204,417	Fukien	13,142,712
Provinces:		Honan	44,214,594
Hopei	35,984,644	Hupeh	27,789,693
Shansi	14,314,485	Hunan	33,226,954
Inner Mongolia	6,100,104	Kiangsi	16,772,865
Liaoning	18,545,147	Kwangtung	34,770,059
Kirin	11,290,073	Kwangsi	19,560,822
Heilungkiang	11,897,309	Szechwan	62,303,999
Jehol	5,160,822	Kweichow	15,037,310
Shensi	15,881,281	Yunaan	17,472,737
Kansu	12,928,102	Sikang	3,381,064
Tsinghai	1,676,534	Tibet and Changtu	1,273,969
Sinkiang	4,873,608	Taiwan	7,591,298
Shantung	48,876,548	Overseas and abroad	11,743,320
		TOTAL	601,938,035

The last two items are only estimated, and of course should not be included in the total at all. They are included obviously for political purposes. But excluding them, the population of mainland China is still somewhat over 580 million.

MISSIONARY NEWS

Latest reports from Gus Borgeest in his rehabilitation work on Sunshine Island in Hong Kong Harbor indicate that they were badly hit by Typhoon Ida in August. A Hong Kong welfare agency has adopted the Island as a training center for refugees, who will be sent there for six months before being settled on some of Hong Kong's unused marginal lands. This development will give a somewhat firmer financial backing to a worth-while project which has hitherto been operating on a veritable shoestring.

Mr. Edward F. Black, formerly associated with Paul Wiant in United Architectural Service in Foochow, died on January 5.

CHURCH NEWS

An enlarged meeting of the National Committee of the YMCA in China was held in Peking December 2 to 12, 1954, according to an NCNA news report. 63 representatives were present from 26 cities. Y. C. Tu, General Secretary, reported on the work of that past five years. They agreed that their major tasks, in addition to supporting the country's patriotic self-determination campaign, are "the provision of better service for Christian youth and young people of the country and the development of social services, including the organization of cultural and athletic activities."

The reference in the November 8 Bulletin to the Catholic priest Li Wei-kuang who is a deputy of the National People's Congress has elicited a statement from Father W. J. Klement of San Francisco, who represents in America Jesuit interests in China. He has not been able to identify Li Wei-kuang definitely, but says that "a 'Vicar-General' (no longer of course) of Nanking was one of the few who went over to the National Church and did not come back... There are no Catholic priests who are Communist deputies, that is, priests in good standing. In the beginning there were a number of priests who signed their names, but under false solicitation. All but a handful denounced their subscription immediately or at least since. I am not sure but I do not think you would need all your fingers to count them off in the whole of China. Those who were slow to return were so ostracized by the Christians that they were brought to their senses."

The Methodist Church in Foochow still has its office building, but rents out part of it for the sake of income. What income the church gets is divided equally among all church workers, from the coolie up to the highest official of the church.

It is reported that Dr. Baen Lee, former president of Hangchow University, and more recently Secretary of the China Bible House, was arrested recently. He was one of the delegates to the Peking Christian Conference which we have already reported so fully, so he was apparently in good standing with the government at that time. Our informant states that the news of the arrest has come in a letter direct from Hangchow.

SCHOOL NEWS

Dr. Li Tsung-en (usually known as C. U. Li), Director of Chinese Union Medical College, the former PUMC, made a statement about the school on December 17. He said that the number of beds in its hospital had trebled since liberation, and that the present college enrolment exceeds the total number of graduates of the past 20 years. They are now using Soviet methods of medical treatment, and have begun the study of Chinese medicine and medicinal herbs. 203 research problems have been undertaken since 1953.

Last March we reported that Lin Kuan-pin, former Principal of the Union Middle School in Foochow, had died about the end of January, 1954. This information came from a letter direct from Foochow, and so was assumed to be correct. However, it seems not to be true, as a report from Hong Kong states that a person coming from Foochow reported that Lin Kuan-pin is now raising vegetables and goats for a living.

Recent word from Foochow confirms previous reports about the use of the Huanan College

and FCU buildings. Huanan with the new buildings which have been added to it is a Teachers' Training School, and is crowded. The Fukien Christian University buildings are being used for an agricultural college. The only full university in the province is in Amoy.

GENERAL NEWS

The second National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference was scheduled to meet in Peking on December 20. Among the 12 religious representatives included in the Committee were Y. T. Wu, Marcus Ch'en, Protestants, and Tung Wen-lung, described as General Vicar of the Diocese of Tsina, Catholic. Not all the 12 were named in the NCNA despatch, but the others named were Buddhist and Mohammedan.

Ernest Thornton, a British Labor M.P. who accompanied Atlee on his visit to China last year, reports on his impressions in the December 30 Manchester Guardian Weekly. He finds agricultural achievements very slight, and surmises that government control of the distribution of fertilizers is being used to force peasants into mutual aid teams and cooperatives. The trade unions were also a disappointment to him. In listing trade union responsibilities the union leaders put "wages and conditions", not in the first place as it would be in a western union, but in third, placing ahead of it their responsibility for "instruction in communism" and "increased production". But he is quite impressed with China's industrial achievements in the past four years, and especially with the fact that they were brought about "without the participation of British, American or German capital or know-how." This fact, he thinks, may have greater political repercussions on the rest of Asia than any Communist subversive activities.

Nanchang reported in November that most of the flood refugees in Kiangsi had now returned to their homes.

Nelson Johnson, former American ambassador to China, died at his home in Washington on December 3.

A letter from the World Council and Lutheran Joint Service to Refugees office in Hong Kong reports that about 3,000 White Russians in Harbin, about a thousand of whom had been expecting to go to Brazil, have now been denied exit visa to go anywhere but Soviet Russia.

The Committee for Free Asia has reorganized as The Asia Foundation, with offices at 105 Market Street, San Francisco. The Board of Trustees is composed of a number of outstanding business and professional people, including such well-known names as Paul Hoffmann, Grayson Kirk and Charles Taft.

The Han River railway bridge at Wuhan was completed on November 12.

The Chinese are reviving their traditional medical practice, evidently for "patriotic" reasons. One hundred western trained doctors in Peking have been taking special courses in Chinese herbs and in acupuncture, and a complete hospital has been built in Foochow (opened December 1) for traditional style treatment.

Rewi Alley has published another book on New China, The People Have Strength. It is a sequel to his earlier Yo Banfa (We Have A Way). This new book gives his impressions of recent changes in China.

Tseng Ta-chun, Executive Secretary of the Hong Kong office of Aid Refugee Chinese Intellectuals (ARCI) and his family suddenly disappeared from Hong Kong on September 18, 1954. It is supposed that they have returned to the mainland, and some concern is felt about the possibility of his having taken along copies of refugee files to turn over to the Communists.

Railways: Chining-Ulan Bator line, 295 kilometers completed, reaching to within 43 kilometers of the Chinese-Mongolian border. Chengtu-Paoki line, 263 kilometers north from Chengtu, passing through Mienyang. Lanchow-Sinkiang line has been completed from Lanchow to Wuwei, in the Kansu corridor. Chou En-lai stated in his September report to the National People's Congress that the railway lines of the country would total 25,500 kilometers by the end of 1954, as compared with 21,700 in 1949.

There is a good analysis of the National Constitution of Communist China (which we summarized in our July 1954 number) by Chao Kuo-chun in the October 1954 number of Far Eastern Survey.

PRAYER

O God, the God of unity and concord, we pray that Thy church may be one throughout the earth. Break down all the walls of division that the pride and arrogance of man have set up, and teach us in loving Thee so to love each other that we may in truth become together the family of God. Amen.